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UNCLAS MASERU 000424

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB -- ATTN: J. BOBO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: CODEX AD HOC TASK FORCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 147159

1. Charge a.i. met August 17 with Stanley Damane, Director of the National Environment Secretariat in the Ministry of tourism, Environment, and Culture, to deliver the points and non-paper in ref. (Appropriate officials in the Ministry of Agriculture have not been available.)

2. Damane said his office was unaware of the upcoming Task Force meeting. He doubted that the GOL, due to budget constraints, would send a representative. Lesotho does not plan to submit materials for consideration by participants but the Secretariat staff would examine the information in the non-paper and provide post with any substantive comments.

3. Damane added that Lesotho would nevertheless be very interested in the Task Force's work. He noted that the GOL has a biosafety policy in place, which covers mainly transboundary movement, but not yet any guidelines on biotechnology, an important area related to biosafety.

ALBRECHT